

Aroha Mai — Aroha Atu Love Received — Love Returned

A Tribute to Samantha

30 APRIL 1969 – 30 AUGUST 2019

Alayne Mikahere-Hall and Te Rūnanga o Waka Oranga

Samantha Green was the devoted daughter of Susan Green and Grant Dillon and a very loving mother to her beautiful daughters, Jessica and Irihapeti. Samantha was affectionately known to her whānau as Sam. She was a much-loved older sister, aunt and a very proud grandmother. At the time of her passing Sam was with the people she loved most. It was her candid and unassuming humility that drew us to her. Sam has left an endearing and lovable memory in our hearts.

In 2008 the New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists (NZAP) was hosting their annual conference on the grounds of Waitangi. For Waka Oranga this would be our first conference encounter with NZAP and the first time a psychotherapy conference had ever occurred in Waitangi. We were supported by Ngā Ao E Rua (The Two Worlds), who went to great lengths to make it possible for us all to come together. It was also the first time that provisions had been made to enable our tamariki and mokopuna to accompany their parents and whānau to conference. This is when Sam really touched our lives, taking up the responsibility to care for our tamariki and mokopuna. This was a courageous step, caring for tamariki you have not yet met. Sam would take up the role again at the NZAP Ōrākei conference in 2013 and at Waka Oranga events. Caring for children requires responsibility, energy, patience, creativity and aroha. These are the qualities Sam expressed and imparted upon our children. We saw Sam's special attributes when she arrived at the 2008 conference with her own baby Irihapeti. As a profession we were challenging ourselves to improve Māori and Pākehā relations with the conference theme "Imagining the Other". We were encouraged with the assistance of Haare Williams and Joan Metge to look deep within ourselves and at each other in an effort to imagine what true partnership between Māori and Pākehā would look like. Jonathan Fay encouraged attendees to imagine a partnership that could acknowledge difference and replace ignorance and intolerance with recognition, reciprocity, and respect. For Waka Oranga, it was Sam who embodied all the characteristics the conference set out to achieve. It was Sam who appreciated difference. In her unpretentious down-to-earth manner, she openly entered the partnership.

Aroha mai — Aroha atu: Love received — Love returned; that was Sam, humble, honest and heartfelt.

Mikahere-Hall, A., & Te Rūnanga o Waka Oranga. (2019). Aroha mai — Aroha atu: Love received — Love returned. *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand*, 23(1), 131. <https://doi.org/10.9791/ajpanz.2019.12>